

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1583
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1670

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, NP
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH KING BIRENDRA

1. I CALLED ON KING BIRENDRA AFTERNOON MARCH 28 AT MY
REQUEST FOR MEETING WHICH LASTED HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES.
IN CONTRAST TO NORMAL PALACE ROUTINE, WHICH CALLS FOR NOTE-
TAKER, USUALLY CHIRAN THAPA, TO BE PRESENT, THERE WAS NO ONE
ON HAND AND ENTIRE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE IN RELAXED,
INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE WITH GOOD GIVE AND TAKE.

2. CONVERSATION COVERED VARIETY OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING
REGIONAL WATERS, MY WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS IN
EARLY FEBRUARY, NEPALESE DECISION TO SEND CONTINGENT
TO LEBANON, RAPATI ZONE PROJECT, B.P. KOIRALA'S
MEDICAL CONDITION AND HIS FUTURE, THREAT OF TERRORISM
IN NEPAL, PRINCE HIMALAYA'S VISIT TO US FOR MEDICAL
TREATMENT, AND KING'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO JAPAN
AND POSSIBLY TO CHINA IN MAY.

3. I STARTED DISCUSSION BY PICKING UP FROM OUR LAST
MEETING ON JANUARY 23 AT KING'S CAMP IN WESTERN NEPAL
WHERE HE HAD RECEIVED GOVERNOR GILLIGAN. I MENTIONED THAT
GOVERNOR GILLIGAN HAD FOUND MEETING VALUABLE IN GIVING
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HIM BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF KING'S DEVELOPMENTAL STRATEGY
AND IN OBTAINING HIS VIEWS ON SPECIFIC PRIORITIES AND
PROJECTS. I SAID NEPAL SEEMED TO HAVE MADE IMPRESSION
ON GOVERNOR GILLIGAN WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL AS WE DEVELOPED
OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NEPAL. KING NOTED HE ALSO
FOUND MEETING VERY USEFUL AND HOPED THERE WOULD BE FURTHER
VISITS BY RANKING OFFICIALS OF USG TO NEPAL.

4. I THEN REMINDED KING THAT FROM SURKHET I HAD PROCEEDED TO WASHINGTON ON CONSULATION AND HAD CHECKED IN WITH VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF USG INVOLVED IN NEPAL. I CAME AWAY WITH FEELING THAT WASHINGTON GENERALLY WAS PLEASED WITH STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THIS ATTITUDE HAD BEEN ENHANCED BY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELD OF NARCOTICS AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION. KING NODDED IN AGREEMENT WITH MY CHARACTERIZATION OF STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. I REPORTED TO KING ARRANGEMENTS DEPARTMENT HAD MADE TO INSURE APPROPRIATE RECEPTION FOR PRINCE HIMALAYA AND HIS PARTY DURING THEIR SOJOURN IN CLEVELAND FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT (STATE 65058). I ASKED KING TO HAVE PALACE LET ME KNOW IF THERE WAS ANYTHING FURTHER WE COULD DO FOR ROYAL PARTY.

6. CONVERSATION TURNED TO TERRORISM. I MENTIONED BRIEFLY LATEST ALERT INVOLVING POSSIBLE NEW WAVE OF TERRORISM IN MIDDLE EAST WHICH MIGHT HAVE US INSTALLATION AS LIKELY TARGET (STATE 77518). I USED THIS AS PEG TO INFORM KING THAT WE HOPED SOON TO HAVE TEAM OUT HERE WHICH COULD WORK WITH KEY OFFICIALS IN HMG TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS VIP PROTECTION AND RELATED ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES. I RECALLED THIS WAS MATTER WE HAD DISCUSSED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS
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AND SAID THAT I WAS PLEASED THAT WE WOULD BE READY TO GET TO WORK IN NEAR FUTURE SUBJECT TO RECEIPT OF CONFIRMED EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN SUCH A TEAM BY HMG. KING TOOK NOTES AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN COMPOSITION OF TEAM AND ITS SCHEDULE. HE ADDED HE RECALLED THAT A SIMILAR TEAM HAD VISITED NEPAL DURING HIS FATHER'S TIME AND HE WELCOMED THIS FURTHER INDICATION OF US INTEREST AND COLLABORATION.

7. AT END OF MEETING KING CONFIRMED HE WOULD BE VISITING JAPAN OFFICIALLY IN MAY AND ADDED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE CURRENTLY UNDER WAY FOR "UNOFFICIAL" STOPOVER IN CHINA EITHER ON WAY TO OR FROM JAPAN.

8. OUR DISCUSSIONS ON REGIONAL WATERS, NEPALESE CONTINGENT TO LEBANON, RAPATI ZONE PROJECT AND B.P. KOIRALA'S SITUATION BEING REPORTED IN SEPTELS.
HECK

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